

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To authorize certain aliens seeking asylum to be employed in the United States while their applications are being adjudicated.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. KING) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To authorize certain aliens seeking asylum to be employed in the United States while their applications are being adjudicated.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Asylum Seeker Work  
5 Authorization Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION FOR ALIENS SEEK-**  
7 **ING ASYLUM.**

8 Section 208(d)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality  
9 Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(d)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

1           “(2) EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—

2                   “(A) ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary of  
3 Homeland Security shall authorize employment  
4 for an applicant for asylum—

5                           “(i) who is not in detention;

6                           “(ii) whose application for asylum has  
7 not been determined frivolous; and

8                           “(iii) with respect to whom the proce-  
9 dures required under paragraph (5)(A)(i)  
10 have been completed.

11                   “(B) APPLICATION.—The Secretary may  
12 not grant employment authorization under this  
13 paragraph to an applicant for asylum who is  
14 not otherwise eligible for employment authoriza-  
15 tion until 30 days after the date on which the  
16 applicant filed an application for asylum.

17                   “(C) TERM.—Employment authorization  
18 under this paragraph—

19                           “(i) shall be for a period of 1 year;  
20 and

21                           “(ii) shall be renewable for additional  
22 1-year periods while the applicant’s asylum  
23 claim is being adjudicated, including ad-  
24 ministrative or judicial review.”.